Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

receiving a first digital image in a sequence of digital images and eye and mouth coordinates;

outputting eye and mouth coordinates on a subsequent digital image in the sequence of digital images; and

computing transformation parameters that represent a transformation from a base face model for the first digital image to a subsequent deformable model for the subsequent digital image;

wherein receiving comprises estimating the base face model, denoted Mb, and the base face model's transformation parameters, denoted T', by the eye and mouth coordinates;

wherein outputting comprises:

calculating an initial model, denoted M, for the subsequent digital image as a transformed base model Mb using the transformation parameters T',

rotating the subsequent image to the first digital image, denoted I(x,y), to generate a normalized model of the initial model M;

calculating a horizontal and vertical gradient map on the rotated image; and

estimating new transformation parameters, denoted T*, by minimizing an energy function E(T,I(x,y)) representative of the goodness of fit between the transformed model and the corresponding digital image, and of the optimality of the new transformation parameters, where

<u>T* corresponds to the complex argument of the minimum of the energy function, denoted arg</u>
<u>minT E(T,I(x,y))</u>.

28-30. (Cancelled)

31. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[30]] <u>27</u> in which minimizing comprises a downhill simplex method with initial transformation parameters T = T'.

32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[30]] <u>27</u> further comprising calculating the eye centers and the mouth corners by the transformed base model using the transformation parameters T*.